

# City of Lawton Proclamation

**Whereas**, the nonprofit organization Pet Partners, a national leader in demonstrating and promoting the health and wellness benefits of animal-assisted therapy, activities, and education, with more than 10,000 registered teams making more than 3 million visits annually, created National Therapy Animal Day; and

**Whereas**, National Therapy Animal Day serves to recognize and honor therapy animals for the amazing work they do, raise awareness and educate the public about the role therapy animals play in enhancing the health and well-being of humans, and honor the thousands of dedicated handlers who volunteer their time and compassion to brighten the lives of those in their communities by sharing their therapy animals; and

**Whereas**, there are thousands of therapy animal teams serving in communities across the United States, April 30<sup>th</sup> has been designated as National Therapy Animal Day; and

**Whereas**, therapy animal (dog) teams in the Lawton-Fort-Sill community play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond, which is a mutually beneficial relationship that improves the physical, social, and emotional lives of those therapy animal teams serve; and

**Whereas**, therapy animal(dog) teams make millions of visits per year in settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools and hospice; and

**Whereas**, Therapy animal(dog) teams interact with a variety of people in our community including patients in recovery, people with intellectual disabilities, seniors living with Alzheimer's, students, veterans with PTSD, people who have experienced crisis events, and those approaching end of life.

**Now, Therefore**, I, Stan Booker, Mayor, City of Lawton, do hereby proclaim April 30<sup>th</sup> to be

## National Therapy Animal Day

and encourage Lawton Fort-Sill citizens to celebrate our therapy animals and their human handlers. Further, I publicly salute the service of therapy animal teams in our community and in communities across the nation.

**In Witness Whereof**, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Official Seal of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, to be affixed hereto this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022.

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**Stan Booker, Mayor**